

Application Number 10/639,055  
Amendment dated May 11, 2005  
Response to Office action of February 22, 2005

**Remarks/Arguments**

**Item 2. Claims 8-10 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a verbatim duplicate of claims 4-6.**

Applicant has changed the dependency of claims 8-10 to overcome this objection.

**Item 3. Claims 21-22 stand objected to because of informality**

Examiner states that claims 21 and 22 suggest that applying a potential difference between surfaces is a step for promoting evaporation, whereas the specification (paragraphs 26-31) teaches applying a potential difference between surfaces (or operating a pair of surfaces as a diode) but not as a step for promoting evaporation.

Applicant has amended Claims 21 and 22 to draw on the language of Paragraph 31, and respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw objection.

In addition, claims 12 and 17 have been amended to improve clarity.

**Item 5. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bensaoula (US2003/0035261-A1).**

Examiner asserts that the term 'degassing' used by Bensaoula is synonymous with the term 'evaporation' used in the instant Application.

According to The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 'degas' means 'To remove gas from', whilst 'evaporate' means 'to convert or change into a vapor, to draw off in the form of vapor, to draw moisture from, as by heating, leaving only the dry solid portion, to deposit (a metal) on a substrate by vacuum sublimation'.

Furthermore, evaporation involves a state change (solid to gas, or liquid to gas), whereas degassing simply involves removing gas molecules from a material.

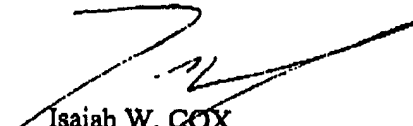
To make this distinction clearer, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to include the word 'component', and respectfully requests that Examiner withdraw rejection under 25 USC 103 (a).

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. These amendments are believed to have added no

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new material. If the Examiner believes that discussing the application the Applicant over the telephone might advance prosecution, Applicant would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



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Inventor